

GED Test Taking Tips

General Tips

The scores on the GED tests are based only on the number of questions answered correctly. If an test taker does not know the answer to a question, they should mark the answer that appears to be the best of the five choices. An test taker should not spend too much time on a question whose answer they do not know; they should answer it if they can, and go on to the next question. It is to the test taker's advantage to answer every question.

If two answers are marked for a question, the test taker will receive no credit for that question. Only one response can be marked for each question. There is only one correct answer for each question.

The test taker should make sure that the marks on the answer sheet are dark and completely fill the circles. On the Writing Skills answer sheet the multiple-choice questions have a large bubble surrounding a smaller white bubble; only the smaller white bubble needs to be filled in. Make no stray marks on the answer sheet booklet. Make sure that every circle marked on the answer sheet booklet corresponds to the number of the question and to the test taker's answer choice. If the test taker needs to change an answer, it should be done so completely by using the White-Out pen provided.

Tips for Testing Within the Time Limits

The time limits are sufficient to permit at least 85% of the GED test takers to complete the tests while working at a comfortable rate. The use of uniform time limits permits GED Testing Services to ensure that each test taker is given the same opportunity to demonstrate educational achievements.

The examiner should note the beginning time for each test and when the test should be completed. The examiner should post this information at the start of each test.

Test takers sometimes encounter problems with the time limit on the Social Studies test; the Social Studies test and the Science test have the same number of questions (50 each) but the time limit for the Social Studies test (70 min.) is ten minutes less than for Science (80 min.).

Tips for the Mathematics Test

The mathematics test is in two parts. A calculator is provided by the test center and may be used on Part I of the Mathematics test (25 questions). The calculator is not permitted on Part 2 (25 questions). Most of the questions (80 percent) on the Mathematics test are multiple-choice format; 20 percent of the questions must be answered on an alternate grid. All the correct answers fit the alternate format grids. If a test taker has an answer that does not fit they should reread the question to make sure they have given the answer in the form requested. Mixed numbers, such as $3 \frac{1}{2}$, cannot be entered in the alternate format grid. Instead, represent them as decimal numbers (3.5) or fractions ($\frac{7}{2}$). No answer can be a negative number. Answers can begin in any column that will allow the answer to be entered, but do not leave a blank space in the middle of an answer.

A common mistake is to mark more than one answer on the coordinate plane grid. Test takers should mark only the one circle that represents their answer. If more than one answer is given the test taker will receive no credit for the answer.

Formulas are provided in the Mathematics test booklet. Only some of the questions require the use of a formula. Not all formulas given will be needed.

Tips for the Essay

The essay must be written on the topic assigned at the examination session. The student reads the assigned essay topic before beginning the Writing Skills test. The topics are assigned randomly.

In rare cases, an exemption may be granted to an assigned topic because the topic is inappropriate due to a test taker's disability, religion, or incarceration. Exemptions are not allowed because a test taker does not understand the topic or has no opinion about the subjects who think they should be granted an exemption for one of these reasons should notify the examiner at the test session after reading their assigned topic. All exemptions must be filed with GED Testing Services in Washington and with the State GED Administrator in Frankfort.

If a student writes an essay on a topic other than the one assigned, the essay will not be scored. The student will receive a score of 0 and will have to take both parts of the Writing Test again. It will be noted on the score report that the essay was off-topic.

If a student writes an inadequate essay, the student will receive a score of 0 and will have to take both parts of the Writing Test again. It will be noted on the score report that the topic was inadequate.

The essay on the Writing Skills test must be written in a black ballpoint pen that is provided by the examiner. The essay written during the GED examination is considered draft writing. It is expected that the student will have to cross-out words to make corrections. It does not matter if a student uses cursive writing or prints. While students should write as clearly as possible, handwriting and neatness do not affect the essay score.

The student is given a sheet of lined scratch paper to use during the Writing Skills test. This sheet of scratch paper will not be scored; it will be collected with all other test materials at the end of the test and shredded. The essay must be written in black ballpoint ink on pages 3 and 4 of the Language Arts, Writing Test answer sheet booklet during the two hour time period of the examination. Only the writing on pages 3 and 4 will be scored. All test takers must write their essays on the answer sheets and may not attach additional paper or use a second answer sheet if the essay exceeds the space provided. Only the writing on the two lined pages in the answer sheet booklet will be read and scored.

GED Testing Service in Washington prohibits discussing or publicizing the topic or content of any essay. The essay must be treated as confidential material.

The essay topics are just like questions and it is considered testing misconduct to disclose the essay topic with anyone including the test takers adult education instructor.